

Coastal Symphony of Georgia 2020-21 Concert Season

Michelle Merrill, Music Director and Conductor
Brunswick High School Auditorium

Monday, March 29, 2021
8:00 p.m.

Don Juan

Richard Strauss

Siren Sounds Waltz

Alma Deutscher

Intermission

Symphony No. 2

Brahms

The March 29th concert features the story of a disappointed romantic, a lovely waltz inspired by city sounds, and a cheery symphony with a familiar tune.

In *Don Juan*, Richard Strauss follows the legend of Don Juan's search for the ideal woman, depicting character, place, and activity so vividly words are unnecessary. Our hero bounds forth in a dramatic flourish of brass and timpani. A playful section showcasing the woodwinds follows before moving on to a more pensive mood as each relationship fails to please him. Finally, a feverish lead up to a melancholy ending paints the picture of a despondent Don Juan willingly facing death by the sword of a lover's husband.

Siren Sounds Waltz is the clever work of a brilliant young English composer who was told that in order to be relevant, she must write music that reflects the ugliness of the modern world. Instead, 15-year-old Alma Deutscher decided to take the ugly sounds of the modern world and turn them into something more beautiful through music. We might be startled by the beginning of the piece, but we will soon be swept up into the full, lush passages of the waltz.

The evening closes with Johannes Brahms *Symphony No. 2*, which he thought of as melancholy, but others thought of as cheery with an almost pastoral mood. Written in 1877 following a summer holiday, it is not without its darker passages. Listen for the original strains of the Brahms Lullaby in the first movement before the cellos introduce a brooding theme with a counter melody in the bassoons in the second. A Minuet opens the Allegretto with pizzicato cellos and a little oboe melody, before the final movement takes us to a triumphant ending.